

The Punta Gorda Herald

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, NOV. 18, 1915.

Ex-Governor Gilchrist is still campaigning in West Florida, and reports from there say he is meeting with much encouragement.

What England and France most need are generals of military ability. They have plenty of brave soldiers, but their generals appear to be men of very little ability.

The Jasper Banner is crying for a moving picture show; says there are 2,000 people and no picture show in Jasper. Come to Punta Gorda, brother, and we'll show you a picture show as is a picture show.

The Macclenny Standard says that Judge Benj. Harrison "is writing for the Times-Union a series of interesting articles about Florida in the fifteenth century, along about the time when Frank Clark, Judge Ives and Col. Weeks started to run for office."—Why omit Park Trammell?

The Gainesville Sun, which is edited by Hon. H. H. McCreary, who was for years a member of the state senate and is one of the best informed men in Florida, is doing a patriotic work in exposing the schemes of the Everglades land speculators and in defending the state officials from the outrageous attacks of those same schemers. 'Rah for the Sun.

A weather bulletin received here Monday morning said that the temperature "in the sugar cane region" would fall next day to 34 degrees. Maybe the bureau didn't know it, but that was a fearful prediction, for the "sugar cane region" extends from Atlanta on the north to Homestead and Chokoluskee in southern Florida. The bureau ought to study up in descriptive geography.

The Ocala Star takes the view that the Davis package law, as a temperance measure, is a failure. It says that where a man formerly got only one drink for fifteen cents, he now gets three (a half-pint) for the same price and that thus drinking has been increased. On the other hand, the law has greatly reduced the expense of running saloons by eliminating the expert "mixologist" and enabling the proprietor to operate his saloon without any help.

Editor Lee of the Winter Haven Chief, wishes that he "could talk Latin, so that he could wear like the dickens and not be caught at it." He may be surprised to learn that there are no cuss words in Latin, at least nothing worse than Cicero's "O dii immortales." It seems that English is the only language abounding in shocking profanity. But Brother Lee might relieve his wrath by adopting the method of a famous Irish wit, who denounced and appalled a fish-woman as an "equilateral rhomboid, a polyhedral parallelopipedon" and other equally horrible things.

The attention of Frank Huffaker, editorial crusader of the Tampa Times, arch-enemy of the state officials and advance herald of South Florida progress and prosperity, is respectfully called to the fact that the town council of Punta Gorda has enacted an ordinance providing for the construction of eleven miles of concrete sidewalks and that construction is to begin by Jan. 1st, 1916. See ordinance in this paper.

Here's one time that Thorn, the noted humorist of the Palm Beach Post, is only half correct: Referring to The Herald's remark that the summer costumes now worn in Punta Gorda "look tony," he says that "tony" means a "simpleton." As a noun, it does; but, as an adjective (or adjective), in which sense The Herald used it, it means "stylish." See page 2170 of Webster's New International Dictionary, edition of 1912—the same lexicon that does not contain the word "flee," about which The Herald inquired and was informed by Thorn a month or so ago.

For a County Fair

The Herald is glad to note that the progressive people of Arcadia have taken preliminary steps towards the holding of a county fair. This movement should by all means be pushed to a successful issue.

Every well informed man, whether engaged in commerce, agriculture or any other calling, knows the great value of a county fair. Nothing can take its place as an object lesson demonstrating the possibilities and advantages which the county possesses, thereby impressing visitors with the desirability of the county as a residence for any man wishing to engage in any particular pursuit. The fair is undoubtedly the best possible means of advertising the resources and advantages of the county, of which it presents an ocular demonstration that cannot be doubted or questioned, and the direct and indirect results are worth several times the cost of the fair. But every body knows these things and it is unnecessary to say more about them.

The point now is, PUSH THE PROPOSITION. Every citizen of the county should boost and help it along.

No time is to be lost. The fair should be held during the last week in January so that the exhibits may be sent to the South Florida Fair, which is to be held in Tampa Feb. 4th to 12th. The time is very short for such an undertaking, but if every citizen will give his active support to it, a great success can be achieved.

DeSoto county has more resources, a greater variety of them than any other county in the United States, and it is only necessary to prove this fact through the instrumentality of a county fair to induce hundreds, possibly thousands

of good people from abroad to come here and join with us in developing our resources and adding vastly to the taxable wealth.

Our chief need is more good people, and, as a means of inducing them to come, nothing surpasses a county fair. And DeSoto county can give a fair that, in variety and character of exhibits, cannot be surpassed and possibly not equaled by any other county in the United States.

Every body for the fair—boost! hurrah!

The Greatest Living Floridian

Some time ago, Editor Powell of the Clearwater Sun, asked, "Who is the greatest living Floridian?" and, on The Herald inquiring whether he meant man or woman, he answered, "Either." Since then, The Herald has pondered the question enough to find that it is very difficult to answer it, unless the propounder thereof will define exactly what he means by greatness and also by Floridian. If we take the term Floridian to include any person who has been a resident of Florida for twenty years or longer and the word greatness to embrace all the cardinal virtues, we may make a start towards a conclusion.

We doubt, however, if any one person in this or any other state possesses a composite character embodying even half of the cardinal virtues. A man may be great in one respect and deficient in all others. Napoleon, for example, in a military sense was the greatest man of his age; and, in the present day, if one were asked, Who is the greatest electrician? the answer would be easy.

If we take true greatness to consist of only two things, pre-eminence in some meritorious accomplishment and a moral character not solely above reproach, but effulgent, if this be the standard, we might name William A. Hoeker, ex-judge of the supreme court, as the greatest living Floridian.

In the matter of a vast amount of valuable knowledge which he knows how to use, a brilliant mind adjusted to a calm equilibrium, scholarly attainments of the highest order, probity of the loftiest kind, all combined with the simplicity and earnestness of a true Christian, Judge Hoeker has few equals and no superiors. He is a Christian philosopher, a sage whose words abound in wisdom. In The Herald's opinion, he comes as near being the greatest living Floridian as any man who might be mentioned.

There may be others greater than he, but The Herald does not know them.

Our state has various men who, in various lines of activity, may truly be called great. Frank Harris of the Ocala Banner, for instance, is possibly our greatest editor. We consider him great, not so much because of his able editorials as because of his conspicuous and never failing charity. "For now abideth these three, faith, hope and charity, and the great of these is charity." Using the word in its Biblical sense, Editor Harris has shown that he possesses an abundance, so to speak, of this great Christian virtue.

We might go on and name a dozen other Floridians who have certain attributes of greatness, but enough has been said to show how difficult it is to answer Editor Powell's question.

Not An Innovation

The Herald having twitted the Leesburg Commercial with introducing an innovation by publishing a marriage notice with the names of the groom and bride left out, Editor Leach of that admirable paper, explains that in Leesburg at least, it is not an innovation. He says:

"There is a time-honored custom, friend Jordan, probably bequeathed by yourself when you left the hills for the piscatorial joys of Peace river valley, that

prevents the editor of a paper in Leesburg from having his little say about these hallowed events. It is evident a general belief exists that the ruthless hand of mere man, especially newspaper man, would strip from these events some measure of their romance.

"It was only a few weeks before this went through that another society wedding was described by one of the fair guests. The bridal party secured the copy and kept it overnight, returning it with their O. K. next morning. But in that account the groom never entered the church, yet the wedding proceeded in the most orthodox manner.

"So you were mistaken, friend Jordan, about it being an innovation. You can 'most always look for something original in an event like this."

We are surprised at the confession of Editor Benjamin of the Ocala Star, that Bob Gonzales of the Columbia State, and Ed Lambright of the Tampa Tribune, have placed obstacles in the way of his moral reformation. He says:

"If we hadn't become addicted to reading the paragraphs of Bob Gonzales and Ed Lambright, we might get religion and join the church."

STATE PRESS COMMENT

Clearwater Sun:—It is a singular fact that while there are now more hens than ever before, eggs are hard to obtain and the prices are high. Where is the reason?

Tallahassee Record:—W. V. Knott is one of the cleanest men in Florida's political life, and the candidate who undertakes to ride into office by slinging mud at him is going to get into the "also ran" class.

Jasper News:—And now comes the Punta Gorda Herald with the story that in that burg Irish potatoes grow on a grape vine. The Herald's "Davis package" must be something fierce.

Apalachicola Times:—Mr. Wood should not borrow General Gilchrist's cooking recipes. If he could invent a way for the average citizen to cut down expenses, however, he would have a winning race.

DeFuniak Breeze:—Hayes Lewis says, so a reliable party tells us, that at the present time the race for Governor is between Catts and Knott, with Catts leading. And Hayes Lewis is some prognosticator, he is.

Gainesville Sun:—Politics can't make anything but a gentleman of A. P. Jordan of the Punta Gorda Herald. He opposed the Governor's political ambitions and the Governor declined to renew his commission at the end of his official term, but Jordan still defends the Governor against the sinister flings of some editors.

Gainesville Sun:—State Treasurer John C. Luning does not mince words when it comes to telling how he proposes to stand by the other parts of the State when it comes to protecting them against the aggressions of certain schemers. Mr. Knott is by nature less demonstrative of his feelings, but he, too, declares he is the servant of all the people, and not that of any special interests.

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